



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,735	10/31/2003	Ravinder Prakash	CHA920030024US1	3130
23550	7590	10/21/2008		
HOFFMAN WARNICK LLC				
75 STATE STREET				
14TH FLOOR				
ALBANY, NY 12207				
EXAMINER				
KRASNIC, BERNARD				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2624				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/21/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PTOCommunications@hoffmanwarnick.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/698,735

Applicant(s)

PRAKASH ET AL.

Examiner

BERNARD KRASNIC

Art Unit

2624

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/16/2008 has been entered.
2. The application has pending claim(s) 1-22.
3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim(s) 1-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection because of the Request for Continued Examination (RCE).
4. Applicant's arguments filed 7/16/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant alleges, "Applicant traverses the rejections of independent ..." in page 8, and states respectively that none of the prior art references determines a proper position of characters in a string of inaccurate character data by examining characters in a second string of accurate character data. However the Examiner disagrees because the new prior art reference Murdock et al (US 5,418,864 provided by the Applicants Information Disclosure Statement [IDS]) teaches such a feature of determining a proper

position of characters in a string of inaccurate character data by examining characters in a second string of accurate character data (see Murdock, col. 4 at lines 44-46, col. 6 at lines 16-18 and 30-36, col. 10 at lines 57-63, using for example two transducers, the synchronization system synchronizes the position of the inaccurate character data [errors occur when a character is recognized when no character exists and when a character is recognized as multiple characters] with the position of the accurate character data for the two strings "This old rrian" and "This old man"). Further discussions will be addressed below in the art rejection section. Therefore claims 1-22 are still not in condition for allowance and are still not patentably distinguishable over the prior art references.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5. Claim(s) 16-19 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. While the claims recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, a statutory "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to another statutory category (such as a particular apparatus), or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing (Reference the May 15, 2008 memorandum issued by Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examining Policy, John J. Love, titled "Clarification of 'Processes' under 35 U.S.C. 101"). The instant claims neither transform underlying subject matter nor positively tie to another statutory category that accomplishes the claimed method steps, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tyburski et al (US 3,764,978, as applied in previous Office Action), in view of Ott et al (US 5,754,674, as applied in previous Office Action) and Murdock et al (US 5,418,864, provided by the Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement [IDS]).

Re Claim 1: Tyburski discloses a character recognition system (see Fig. 1, abstract, lines 1-3), comprising at least one transducer / OCR (4) and MICR (2) system for scanning printed character data and generating a plurality of sets / two sets (one for the OCR and one for the MICR) of transduced character information / output of OCR (4) and MICR (2) (see Fig. 1, abstract, lines 1-3, col. 2, lines 65-67, col. 1, lines 39-49, col. 3, lines 51-52); a position collection system / character recognition circuitry for collectively storing / computer buffer circuitry positional data / character information for each of a plurality of characters / group of characters (22, 24) in each set / two sets (one for the OCR and one for the MICR) of transduced character information (see Figs. 1 and 3, abstract, lines 1-3, col. 2, lines 20-24, col. 3, lines 41-55, col. 4, lines 55-58, the

teachings "can recognize a group of characters" shows Tyburski's system recognizes the account field 24 which is shown as "786" or the amount field 22 which is shown as "000000" as a set or group or string which is essentially plurality of characters being stored collectively using the computer buffers or the character recognition circuitry [the group of characters are considered collectively], this character information is not the positional information, however Tyburski discloses this positional information silently when he explains that the "same" character is considered from both the MICR and the OCR); a character position synchronization system / synchronization circuitry that utilizes the positional data / character information stored / computer buffer circuitry for the plurality of characters / group of characters to positionally synchronize corresponding characters / synchronize same characters from different sets / two sets OCR and MICR of transduced character information (see Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 51-64, Tyburski uses the character information including the time delay for the synchronization circuitry as a means to wait for the positions of the characters to align in order to establish a comparison between the "same" characters) wherein a string of characters has inaccurate character data (see column 6, line 68, column 7, lines 1-3, Tyburski states "if the field" [e.g. account field 24 of Figure 1 is basically the Applicants claimed string of characters] "does not check, a feedback signal on line 15a is sent back to block 12 and the magnetic signal is then substituted for the optical signal, for the character with respect to which the ambiguity occurred", Tyburski is clearly stating that the positionally synchronized character string [e.g. account field] is analyzed [analyzed for substitution of ambiguous characters] for the two transducers [MICR and OCR] even

when ambiguity between the two sets occurs); and a voting engine / minicomputer for receiving the positionally synchronized sets of transduced character information (see col. 4, lines 16-22, col. 1, lines 39-49, the minicomputer using the synchronized recognition signals from the OCR and the MICR, correlates the two signals and decides a best match).

However, Tyburski fails to explicitly suggest that the positional data is stored and used for character synchronization. Tyburski also fails to explicitly suggest that the character position synchronization system determines a proper position of each character in a first string of inaccurate character data having a missing or erroneously added character based on a second string of accurate character data that does not have any missing or erroneously added characters.

Ott discloses storing / memory the positional data / character XY coordinate on the check (see Ott, col. 1, lines 7-12, col. 2, line 55, col. 6, lines 52-54, col. 7, lines 41-47, col. 8, lines 1-4) and using the stored data for character synchronization (Tyburski teaches synchronization).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Tyburski's system [system of recognizing either a single or a plurality of characters from a check document and synchronizing the corresponding characters so a correlation between these corresponding MICR and OCR characters may result in a decision of a best match] using Ott's teachings by including the storing of each character's corresponding positional XY coordinate data to Tyburski's position collection system and character position synchronization system in

order to further enhance the verification of legibility of characters of a check document (see Ott, col. 1, lines 7-12, col. 2, line 55).

However, Tyburski as modified by Ott still fails to explicitly suggest that the character position synchronization system determines a proper position of each character in a first string of inaccurate character data having a missing or erroneously added character based on a second string of accurate character data that does not have any missing or erroneously added characters.

Murdock discloses the character position synchronization system / synchronization controller determines a proper position of each character in a first string of inaccurate character data having a missing or erroneously added character / errors occur when a character is recognized when no character exists and when a character is recognized as multiple characters based on a second string of accurate character data that does not have any missing or erroneously added characters (see Murdock, col. 4 at lines 44-46, col. 6 at lines 16-18 and 30-36, col. 10 at lines 57-63, using for example two transducers, the synchronization controller synchronizes the position of the inaccurate character data [errors occur when a character is recognized when no character exists and when a character is recognized as multiple characters] with the position of the accurate character data for the two strings "This old rrian" and "This old man").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Tyburski's system, as modified by Ott, using Murdock's teachings by including to Tyburski's ambiguity [as discussed in Tyburski's teachings above] the fact that the ambiguity could be a missing character or

erroneously added character in order to identify and resolve erroneous characters from the many different types of character environments (see Murdock, col. 1 at lines 53-55).

As to claim 8, the claim is the corresponding broader apparatus claim to claim 1 respectively. The discussions are addressed with regard to claim 1.

As to claim 16, the claim is the corresponding method claim to claim 1 respectively. The discussions are addressed with regard to claim 1.

As to claim 20, the claim is the corresponding means plus function claim to claim 1 respectively. The discussions are addressed with regard to claim 1.

The limitations, as recited in claim 20, "means for collectively storing" in line 3, and "means for positionally synchronizing" in line 5, invoke 35 USC 112, 6th paragraph.

Re Claim 2: Tyburski further discloses an optical character recognition (OCR) (4) transducer and a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) (2) transducer (see Fig. 1, Abstract, lines 1-3).

Re Claim 3: Ott further discloses at least one transducer system (taught by Tyburski above) generates a plurality of sets (taught by Tyburski above) of transduced character information based on different gray-scale level settings / normal sensitivity and higher sensitivity (see Abstract, lines 1-4, col. 2, lines 60-68, col. 5, lines 14-19 and lines 43-44).

Re Claim 4: Ott further discloses the position information system (taught by the Tyburski and Ott combination above) generates a position collection for each character (taught by the Tyburski and Ott combination above) in the at least one set of transduced character information, wherein each position / X-Y coordinate measurement provides a distance from the character to a predetermined location on a document containing the printed character data (see Abstract, lines 6-10, col. 7, lines 36-39, col. 8, line 4, X-Y coordinate is based on seed-pixel or object or character location on an image and pixel locations tell the distance from the top left edge of a document to the pixel being considered).

Re Claim 5: Ott further discloses the predetermined location includes an edge of the document (see Abstract, lines 6-10, col. 7, lines 36-39, col. 8, line 4, X-Y coordinate is based on seed-pixel or object or character location on an image and pixel locations tell the distance from the top left edge of a document to the pixel being considered).

Re Claim 6: Ott further discloses each position measurement provides a distance from a middle point of the character to the predetermined location (see Abstract, lines 6-10, col. 7, lines 36-39, col. 8, lines 4-18, X-Y coordinate is based on seed-pixel or object or character location on an image and pixel locations tell the distance from the top left edge of a document to the pixel being considered which could be the middle point of the object or character).

Re Claims 7: Tyburski further discloses the character position synchronization system / synchronization circuit (6) determines if characters from different sets of transduced characters / OCR and MICR correspond to each other by matching / minicomputer the position measurement of the characters in different sets, within a predetermined tolerance (see col. 4, lines 16-22, col. 1, lines 39-49, the minicomputer using the synchronized recognition signals from the OCR and the MICR, correlates the two signals and decides a best match, the predetermined tolerance limitation is silent but a matching between two signals could only be done by some type of parameters which consider tolerance).

Re Claim 9: Tyburski further discloses at least one transducer system / OCR (4) and MICR (2) for scanning printed character data and generating the corresponding sets / two sets (one for the OCR and one for the MICR) of transduced character information / output of OCR (4) and MICR (2) (see Fig. 1, Abstract, lines 1-3, col. 2, lines 65-67, col. 1, lines 39-49, col. 3, lines 51-52).

As to claim 10, the discussions are addressed with respect to claim 3.

Re Claim 11: Tyburski further discloses a voting engine / minicomputer for processing the corresponding sets / corresponding recognition signals (17, 18, 12a) of transduced character information (see col. 4, lines 16-22, col. 1, lines 39-49, the minicomputer

using the synchronized recognition signals from the OCR and the MICR, correlates the two signals and decides a best match).

As to claims 12-15, the discussions are addressed with respect to claims 4-7.

As to claims 17-18 and 19, the discussions are addressed with respect to claims 4-5 and 7.

As to claims 21 and 22, the discussions are addressed with respect to claims 4 and 7.

The limitation, as recited in claim 22 "means for positionally synchronizing" in line 1, invokes 35 USC 112, 6th paragraph.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bernard Krasnic whose telephone number is (571) 270-1357. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:00am-4:00pm and every other Friday 8:00am-3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu can be reached on (571) 272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Art Unit: 2624

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jingge Wu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624
Bernard Krasnic
October 10, 2008